

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 L-03 USPS-02 EB-11 AF-10 ARA-16

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8198

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE GENEVA 5756

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PORG, UPU

SUBJECT: UPU-MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION BY UN COUNCIL FOR NAMIBIA

REF: STATE 189412

1. SUMMARY. MISSION STRONGLY ENDORSES DEPARTMENT'S INTENTION OPPOSE ADMISSION NAMIBIA TO UPU EXPLAINING THAT IT FAILS MEET CONSTITUTIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR MEMBERSHIP. SOUNDINGS AMONG FRIENDLIES HERE REVEAL GREAT SYMPATHY FOR NAMIBIAN ENTRY THAT IN ABSENCE OF LEGAL IMPEDIMENTS WOULD HAVE PROBABLY RESULTED IN POSITIVE VOTE. UNDER PRESENT CONDITION, HOWEVER, LIKELY TENDENCY IS TOWARD ABSTENTION.

2. ON ASSUMPTION THAT THOSE KNOWN TO HAVE ATTENDED OR FOLLOWED CLOSELY UPU LAUSANNE CONGRESS WOULD BE MOST SENSITIVE TO ISSUES RAISED BY NAMIBIA BID FOR ENTRY. MISSION CONTACTED AUSTRALIAN, JAPANESE, NETHERLANDS, NEW ZEALAND AND UK MISSIONS. RESULTS INCONCLUSIVE SINCE NONE HAD INSTRUCTIONS OR HAD KNOWLEDGE OF ANY INSTRUCTIONS THEIR EMBASSIES AT BERN MAY HAVE RECEIVED. HOWEVER, ALL APPRECIATED FULLY RATIONALE FOR U.S. OPPOSITION. SPEAKING PERSONALLY, ALL AGREED THAT THOUGH ARGUMENTATION FOR OPPOSITION SOUND, THEIR GOVERNMENTS MOST LIKELY GO NO FURTHER THAN ABSTENTION, AND ACT THAT, THEY OBSERVED, WOULD HAVE SAME PRACTICE.

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TICAL EFFECT AS NEGATIVE VOTE WHEN RESULTS WERE TALLIED. ON

BASIS THIS ADMITTEDLY LIMITED SAMPLING OF OPINION, MISSION OF THE
OPINION THAT, AS AT LAUSANNE, THERE EXISTS LITTLE ENTHUSIASM
FOR TAKING STRONG NEGATIVE POSITION ON LEGAL GROUNDS.

3. IN LIGHT OF LAUSANNE EXPERIENCE, MISSION CONSIDERS THAT
WHATEVER THE ATTITUDE OF OTHER COUNTRIES, IT IS TIMELY TO SPELL
OUT CLEARLY TO UPU SECRETARIAT THAT AT LEAST ONE MAJOR CONTRIBUTOR,
THE U.S., ATTACHES GREAT IMPORTANCE TO HAVING ALL SPECIALIZED
AGENCIES ADHERE TO THEIR CONSTITUTIONS AND RULES OF PROCEDURE.

4. WHILE IT MAY BE ARGUED THAT AN ABSTENTION COMBINED WITH AN
EXPLICIT REFERENCE TO THE CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUE MIGHT HAVE THE SAME
PRACTICAL EFFECT, THE MISSION SEES THE IMPACT OF AN EXPLAINED NEGA-
TIVE VOTE MOST DESIRABLE IN THIS CASE AND RECOMMENDS U.S. TAKE
POSITION OUTLINED PARA 2 REFTTEL. DALE

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Message Attributes

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